Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS

ENGL 637
AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is a study of the periods and major genres of African-American Literature – poetry, prose, drama, vernacular tradition, essays, and non-fiction. Selected major works and authors are taken from all the periods of African-American literature to show the breadth and variety of African-American literary tradition.

RATIONALE
Multi-cultural American society can benefit from African-American literature because it records enduring human values that reveal commonly held experiences across all people groups. Studying such literature can be aesthetically pleasing; equip one with analytical skills; encourage the exploration of a diversity of content, authors, and genres; and reveal valuable insights about the human condition, thus broadening one’s spiritual and intellectual outlook.

I. PREREQUISITE
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE
Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Office
D. CD Player

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Demonstrate substantial reading, research, and critical thinking skills about African-American literature.
B. Analyze the political, cultural, social, economic, religious, literary, and historical characteristics of African-American literature from the 17th century through the present.
C. Evaluate and use relevant literary/critical approaches in the study of African-American literature to interpret works in their moral, cultural, oral, and historical contexts.

D. Compare works from a range of genres and historical periods (including works by female authors and authors who use or make allusions to particular oral discourses).

E. Write both critiques of articles/criticisms/theories/major authors/texts, and well-researched papers on African-American literature, documenting primary and secondary sources.

F. Evaluate an author’s talent and style; draw comparisons among the various authors/texts; and explore the diversity of the various authors/works studied.

G. Show how and to what extent the literature does or does not reflect Christian values.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings, lecture presentations, and StudySpace resources

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Idea Development Projects (5)

Each Idea Development Project will be completed in 3 parts.

- Part 1: Discussion Board Posts
  
  The student will choose a topic to discuss provided in the Assignment Instructions folder for the assigned module/week. Once the student has selected his or her topic, he or she will post a 500–700-word idea development in the Discussion Board Forum

- Part 2: Discussion Board Replies
  
  The student will respond to at least 2 classmates’ threads and provide additional feedback, ideas, or critiques. Each reply must be between 250–300 words.

- Part 3: Submission
  
  The student will submit his or her final idea development project of 700–1,000 words via the assignment submission link.

D. Essay

The student will write a 2,500-word essay (approximately 10 pages). Six scholarly sources are required for this essay. The student may write on suggested topic(s), develop one or more of his or her idea development projects into the essay, or analyze a work or works studied in class. The paper must have clear,
cogent arguments, evidentiary support of arguments, focused analysis, correct documentation, and excellent writing skills.

E. Research Project

The Research Project is split into 3 manageable parts. The final culminating project will be a research paper.

- Part 1: Topic & Thesis
  The student will choose a topic for the research paper and write a thesis.

- Part 2: Outline & References
  The student will revise his or her thesis based on feedback provided by the instructor and develop an outline and a bibliography of at least 12 scholarly references for the research paper.

- Part 3: Research Paper
  The student will write a 5,000-word (15–20 pages) paper. The paper must have clear, cogent arguments, supporting evidence, focus on analysis, correct documentation, and excellent writing skills.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idea Development Projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board (5 at 50 pts ea)</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission (5 at 50 pts ea)</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 1: Topic &amp; Thesis</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2: Outline &amp; References</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3: Research Paper</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1010</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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B. Scale

- A = 940–1010
- A- = 920–939
- B+ = 900–919
- B = 860–899
- B- = 840–859
- C+ = 820–839
- C = 780–819
- C- = 760–779
- D+ = 740–759
- D = 700–739
- D- = 680–699
- F = 0–679

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:
1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.

2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.

3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted.

4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
# Course Schedule

**ENGL 637**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module/Week</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Study</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
1 presentation  
1 website | Course Requirements Checklist  
Idea Development Project 1 DB  
Idea Development Project 1 Submission | 10  
50  
50 |
| 2           | Andrews: pp. 1–89  
Gates: ch. 4  
1 presentation  
2 websites | Idea Development Project 2 DB  
Idea Development Project 2 Submission | 50  
50 |
1 presentation  
1 website | Idea Development Project 3 DB  
Idea Development Project 3 Submission | 50  
50 |
| 4           | Andrews: pp. 113–137  
Gates & Burton: pp. 249–274  
1 presentation  
1 website | Essay  
RP Part 1: Topic & Thesis | 200  
10 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE/WEEK</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 5           | Andrews: pp. 138–150  
Gates & Burton: pp. 470–481  
Gates & Smith: V 2. pp. 93–107,  
119–156, 243–247, 307–318,  
324–337, 470–530  
1 presentation  
1 website | Idea Development Project 4 DB  
Idea Development Project 4 Submission | 50 |
| 6           | Andrews: pp. 151–161  
Gates & Burton: pp. 511–836  
Gates & Smith: V 2. pp. 69–90,  
533–561, 565–587, 592–607,  
660–665, 693, 703-704, 708–712,  
773–787  
1 presentation  
1 website | RP Part 2: Outline & References | 40 |
| 7           | Andrews: pp. 162–170, 212–223  
Gates & Burton: pp. 867–1052,  
1115–1122  
Gates & Smith: V. 2 pp. 913–929,  
944–957, 985–989, 1067–1122,  
1176–1194, 1356–1369  
1 presentation  
1 website | Idea Development Project 5 DB  
Idea Development Project 5 Submission | 50 |
| 8           | 1 presentation | RP Part 3: Research Paper | 250 |

**TOTAL**: 1010

DB = Discussion Board  
RP = Research Project

**NOTE**: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.